

NO. 207.

HOU DIN, THE CONJURER.
Among the feats of Houdin, the noted French conjurer, whose autobiography has recently appeared in Paris, the following is an instance of his nerve, and of his full command of the art. Houdin visits Algiers and has a trial of skill with the Marabouts or conjurers of that country.
After having performed the trick, says he,

"Why so?"

"Because I don't believe in your power."

"Ah! indeed! Well, then, if you don't be-

"Close your hand firmly, for the piece will crumble in your grasp."

"I am ready," the Arab said, in an incredulous voice, as he held out his tightly closed fist. I took the piece at the end of my fingers, so that the assembly might all see it, then feigning to throw it at the Marabout, it disappeared at the word "Pass!"

My man opened his hand, and finding nothing in it, shrugged his shoulders, as if to say: "You see, I told you so!"

"That does not surprise me," I replied, "for I threw the piece with such strength that it went right through your hand, and has fallen into your sash. Being afraid I might break your watch by the blow, I called

The spectators were astounded. Some of them began telling their beads, but the Marabout frowned without saying a word, and I saw he was spelling over some evil design.

"I now believe in your power," he said; "you are a real sorcerer;" and offering me two pistols he held concealed under his burnous, he added, "Come, choose one of these pistols; we will load it, and I will fire it at you. You have nothing to fear, for I saw you perform this trick at your own theatre."

I confess I was for a moment staggered;

At last I thought of an idea which would save me from my dilemma, at least temporarily. "To-morrow morning," said I, "at eight o'clock, I will allow you to fire at me in the presence of these Arabs, who were witnesses of your challenge." The Mara-

By eight the next morning we had breakfasted, and on entering the hall we found none of the guests were absent. Indeed, a great number of Arabs came in to swell the crowd.

The Marabout put in a fair charge of powder, and drove the wad home. Among the bullets produced, I chose one which I openly put in the pistol, and which was then also covered with paper.

The Arab watched all these movements, for his honor was a stake. We went through the same movements with the second pistol, and the solemn moment arrived.

Solemn indeed it seemed to everybody; to the spectators, who were uncertain of the issue—to Madame Houdin, who had in vain besought me to give up this trick; for she feared the result; and solemn also to me, for as my new trick did not depend on any arrangements heretofore tried, I feared an error—an act of treachery—I know not what.

The Marabout immediately seized one of the pistols, and, on my giving the signal, took a deliberate aim at me. The pistol went off, and the ball appeared between my teeth.

More angry than ever, my rival tried to seize the other pistol, but I succeeded in reaching it before him. You could not injure me," I said : "but you shall now see that

I pulled the trigger, and on the newly white washed wall there appeared a large patch of blood, exactly at the spot where I had aimed. The Marabout went up to it, dipped his finger in the blood, and raising it to his mouth, convinced himself of the reality. When he acquired this certainty, his arms

per JOHN A. FIELD begs leave to remind his friends, that he is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Alexandria City and County, at the election to be held on the 11th inst.

He refers to his past conduct as a guarantee for the future. aug 13—cont

For A CARD.—Expecting at the proper time to announce myself as a candidate for the Sheriffship of Alexandria County, I have to request that *my friends* will not commit themselves to others. WM. A. HART.

For The Voters of the City and County of Alexandria.—I offer myself as a candidate for the

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Mixed Steam Packing, in sheets of all thicknesses and lengths.

Pure Vulcanized Sheet Rubber, of all thicknesses and lengths.
Hydrant, Engine, Steam, and Suction Hose, of all sizes.
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